

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-20 were presented for examination in the present application and remain pending upon entry of the instant amendment.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5-6, 9-12, and 15-20.

Claims 5 and 6 have each been amended to independent form, namely to include the elements of claim 1. Claims 9, 11, and 12 have each been amended to independent form, namely to include the elements of claim 8. Claim 17 has been amended to independent form, namely to include the elements of claim 13. Accordingly, claims 5-6, 9-12, and 17-20 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

It is respectfully submitted that these amendments merely make explicit what had been implicit in the claims and, thus, should not affect the scope of equivalents to which the claims are entitled.

Claims 1-4, 7-8, and 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,602,807 to Prescott (Prescott).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 1 recites “a first power source and a second power source” and a contact that can provide power to “a load from said first source in said first position, to said load from said second source in said second position, and can isolate said load from said first and second sources in said third position”.

Prescott is directed to a tap changer apparatus that changes taps on a transformer winding without interrupting load current. See col. 1, lines 8-15. Specifically, Prescott discloses a tap changer system 10 that is connected to the windings 12, 14, 16 of an electrical transformer. The

winding 14 includes taps T1 through T8, which allow the system to add or subtract to the voltage of windings 12 and 16. See col. 2, lines 65-73. The tap changer system of Prescott protects the non-load tap selector switch against operation while current is flowing therethrough. See col. 5, lines 61-65.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Prescott discloses multiple taps that receive power from a single electric transformer and, not, the first and second power sources recited by claim 1. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Prescott discloses a tap changer that specifically prevents interruption of current and, therefore does not, disclose or suggest the contact that isolates the load from the first and second power sources in the third position as recited by claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Prescott does not disclose or suggest claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 2-4 and 7 are also believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reason that they depend from claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1-4 and 7 are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 8 recites “a contact movable among a first position, a second position, and a third position” where the first position places “a load in electrical communication with a first power source”, the second position places “said load in electrical communication with a second power source”, and the third position isolates “said load from said first and second power sources”.

Again, Prescott discloses only a single electric transformer and, not, the first and second power sources recited by claim 8. Further, Prescott discloses a tap changer that specifically prevents interruption of current and, therefore, does not have the third position of claim 8 that isolates the load from the first and second power sources.

Claim 8 is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claim 8 are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 13 recites “a first contact position configured to place a load in electrical communication with a first power source”, “a second contact position configured to place said load

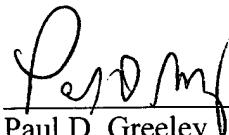
in electrical communication with a second power source", and "a third contact position configured to isolate said load from said first and second power sources".

Again, Prescott discloses only a single electric transformer and, not, the first and second power sources recited by claim 13. Further, Prescott discloses a tap changer that specifically prevents interruption of current and, therefore, does not have the third contact position of claim 13 that is configured to isolate the load from the first and second power sources.

Claim 13 is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 14-16 are also believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reason that they depend from claim 13. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 13-16 are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is solicited. If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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